

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/462,631

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When the brittle green-compact electrode is employed in a discharge surface treatment, the hard coating film formed on the object, which has been subjected to the discharge surface treatment, cannot be uniform.

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To overcome the above-mentioned problems, a mold release agent or a hardener is required. When oleic acid or the like is employed which is usually employed as a mold release agent for a sintered body, the mold release agent disperses and melts in the working fluid. Therefore, components in the working fluid are changed. Therefore, a coating film having a required quality and hardness cannot be formed on the surface of the object which must be machined. Also, the use of usual hardeners causes similar problems.

On page 13, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

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The apparatus for performing discharge surface treatment disclosed in the sixth aspect of the present invention comprises: the material of the green-compact electrode for discharge surface treatment and the fluid which is the same as the working fluid which constitute the green-compact electrode for discharge surface treatment. Therefore, a discharge surface treatment apparatus can be obtained where repetition of the discharge surface treatment does not exert an influence on the formation of the hard coating film on the object which must be machined. Hence it follows that uniform hard coating film can be formed and the film forming performance of the material of the electrode can be obtained.

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (amended) A green-compact electrode for electrical discharge surface treatment of a work comprising: a mixed material of a metal powder and a working